

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **\*Advisory\***

### **Noted Author Julie Alvarez to Headline ‘Teachers Who Write’ Conference**

**MONTPELIER** – Julia Alvarez, whose novels, essays, and poetry have garnered worldwide acclaim, will deliver the keynote address at this year’s “Teachers Who Write,” scheduled for Friday, May 8, on the campus of Vermont College of Fine Arts, in Montpelier.

Born in New York, Julia Alvarez spent her first 10 years in the Dominican Republic until her father’s involvement in a political rebellion forced her family to flee the country. Alvarez’s early success as a poet was followed, in 1991, by wide critical praise of her first published novel, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* and, three years later, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, which was adapted for a film of the same title, starring Selma Hayek. In the years since, Alvarez has published more than a dozen books, including poetry and essay collections, novels and books for young readers. After her keynote address, “*Saving the World Through Stories*,” Alvarez will offer a presentation to teachers who are interested in learning more about her writing process.



Photo Credit: Bill Eichner

Other attractions at this day-long conference include a luncheon concert by Donald Knaack, also known as “The Junkman,” a percussionist who scours landfills for discarded household items to produce “music people want to hear performed on objects they didn’t want.” Interactive presentations for teachers and writers will span a range of subjects, including novel and poetry writing workshops, sessions on conferring with young writers and helping students revise their writing, discussions of the New England Comprehensive Assessment Program (NECAP), a hands-on bookmaking workshop, and a seminar on writing with students who have learning differences.

Now in its twenty-second year, Teachers Who Write is hosted by the Vermont Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, the National Writing Project in Vermont, and the Vermont Department of Education. The \$85 registration fee includes morning refreshments and a luncheon prepared by the New England Culinary Institute.

Pre-registration is required, with a May 1st deadline. View the [conference description](#). For more information, contact Rose Wheeler at [rose.wheeler@state.vt.us](mailto:rose.wheeler@state.vt.us) or (802) 828-3114.

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